SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE PANJAB,

NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES,

OUDH, CENTRAL PROVINCES, CENTRAL INDIA, AND RAJPUTANA, Received up to 2nd June, 1883.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

The Akhbar-i-Am (Lahore), of the 30th May, observes that at first sight Bábú Surendra Náth The Bengali contempt appears to blame for not having satisfied himself as to the truth of the comments of the Brahmo Public Opinion on the Sálig Rám affair before making his attack on Mr. Justice Norris on the strength of those comments. But there are circumstances which greatly extenuate his fault. Mr. Justice Norris had already indulged in vagaries which might have naturally induced him to regard the statement of that journal as true. Mr. Justice Norris had called the ex-King of Oudh a bird in a cage and spoken of him in other improper words in open court. He had subjected a suitor to dishonour for entering the court with betel-nut in his mouth. Again, a man who had been summoned as a juror asked for exemption from attendance on the ground that he did not know English. Mr. Justice Norris ordered him to be detained in court that day in order that he might learn English during that time! The Akhbár-i-Am then proceeds to say that the dragging of a Hindu idol to court by Mr. Justice Norris shows his utter ignorance of native customs. Civil and Military Gazette says in his defence that he did so with the assent of the Court interpreter, who is a Brah-

Circulation, 1,800 copies. man. But can this relieve him of responsibility in the matter? The interpreter might have assented to his proposal simply through fear of incurring his displeasure. How can a Judge, who does not know in what great respect a Salig Ram idol is held by the Hindús, be considered qualified to decide their cases? The Akhbar-i-Am then expresses surprise that an English paper may abuse the Viceroy to its heart's content with impunity, while a native editor should be sent to jail for two months for making some strictures on a High Court Judge. An English paper called the Viceroy an animal and never apologized for this, but no action was taken against it.

Circulation, 250 copies. The Mittra Vilás (Lahore), of the 28th May, states that

Mr. Justice Norris says that he sent
for the idol to court with the assent
of the Court interpreter, who is a Bráhman. But the Hindús
can by no means accept such an excuse, especially when the
High Court has severely punished Bábú Surendra Náth, even
though his comments on Mr. Justice Norris were based on
the statement of the Brahma Public Opinion, which is edited
by an attorney of the High Court. Government should
inflict some punishment on Mr. Justice Norris in order that
he may not repose implicit faith in his subordinates in such
matters.

Circulation, 98 copies.

The Almora Akhbar, of the 28th May, states that public opinion is divided on the question whether the comments made in a newspaper on a Judge can be construed into contempt of court. But all persons agree in thinking that, even if Baba Surendra Nath was guilty of contempt, the sentence passed on him by the High Court is quite out of proportion to his offence. The High Court would have acted wisely if it had accepted the advice of Mr. Justice Romesh Chandra Mitter and let off the accused with a warning and a small fine. Looking at the wide-spread sympathy expressed for the

The imprisonment of the Bábú has not been an unmixed evil. The universal sympathy which his punishment has evoked from all classes of natives will strengthen national feeling which has lately been growing among them, and the contempt law will be made clearer. All India anxiously awaits the decision of the Privy Council, to which an appeal is about to be made on behalf of the Bábú.

The Koh-i-Núr (Lahore), of the 26th May, states that at all events the case of Bábú Surendra

Náth Banarii should serve to draw

Circulation, 450 copies.

Náth Banarji should serve to draw the attention of natives to the unlimited powers exercised by the High Court in contempt cases, and to induce them to adopt measures for the curtailment of those powers. The Bábú himself, who still continues to edit the Bengali from the prison, lays more stress on this matter than on any other in commenting on his own case. Our hairs stand on end when we think of the arbitrary powers of the Calcutta High Court. We have often freely criticised the proceedings of our Lahore Chief Court. If we came to know that the mortal Judges, who sit on the bench of that Court, were invested with unlimited powers like their brethren of the Calcutta High Court, we would prefer the private life of recluse to the public life of editor. The British law boasts of justice and fair play, but it can hardly vindicate that boast if it empowers a man to constitute himself a prosecutor, a judge, and a witness. It is contended that the High Court, being the highest tribunal of justice in the land, is, as it were, the representative of Her Majesty, and that consequently full powers have been vested in it for the protection of its dignity! In spite of the difference in the powers of the High Court and the subordinate Courts, the latter are equally the representatives of Her Majesty. If the powers of the High Court were extended to every subordinate Court in regard to contempt, liberty of speech would entirely vanish. Again,

the apologists of the High Court declare that the Court has derived the powers in question from the Queen's Bench, and express surprise that, while Englishmen, who are so fond of liberty, do not complain of the exercise of such powers by Judges in England, natives should raise a clamour against the exercise of such powers in India. No nation that loves freedom will ever bestow such powers on its Judges. The editor then refers to the law of the United States and points out that according to that law contempt can be committed only in the presence or view of a court. True, the contempt law of England gives considerable powers to the Judges, but they are very thoughtful and patient and never abuse their powers. The British public is, however, anxious to curtail their powers, and a Bill was lately introduced into the House of Lords with a view to modify the law. In the debate that followed the introduction of the Bill, Lord Fitzgerald (sic), an old experienced lawyer, strongly condemned the powers possessed by Judges as a great stain on English law. Lord Coleridge, the Lord Chief Justice, said in defence of the present law that the powers served to deter people from outraging the dignity of Court, but that practically they were of no force. Since his connection with Court he had sentenced only one man, who was a very turbulent person, to imprisonment for 24 hours for contempt. But Lord Coleridge is not aware that a High Court in this country can sentence a respectable editor to two months' imprisonment for the same offence, even though he should offer an apology! Lord Brumwell (sic), another distinguished Judge, observed that in cases of contempt an apology was generally offered, and that there the He did not know that the state of things in matter rested. Here the tender of an this country is quite different. apology only tends to make the sentence more severe! possession of such arbitrary powers by the High Court is very dangerous to the liberties of the people, and it is our earnest prayer that Her Majesty may do something to save

editors from the fate of Bábú Surendra Náth. (The Dabdabai-Qaisari (Bareilly), of the 26th May, and the Najmu-lHind (Moradabad), of the 20th May, express dissatisfaction
at the decision of the High Court, and sympathise with
Bábú Surendra Náth.)

The Hindustani (Lucknow), of the 31st May, states that the Chief Justice of Bengal observed The same. in his judgment in the case of Bábú Surendra Nith that he trusted that his case would serve as a warning to native editors! The question is how far the opinion of Sir Richard Garth has been justified by events. Bábú Surendra Náth has been generally regarded as a martyr for his country, and therefore his fate, far from deterring native journalists from criticising the proceedings of the High Court, will encourage them to do so still more freely. On the contrary, the High Court itself should learn a lesson from this unfortunate incident. It was hitherto held in the highest respect by the people and was looked upon as justice incarnate, but its ill-advised action in this case has seriously damaged its prestige. No such widespread commotion has ever prevailed since the days of the mutiny. Even students have been thrown into a state of excitement by the severity of the sentence passed on Bábú Surendra Náth. We hate the puerile excesses committed by them, but at the same time the sympathy displayed by them towards him is highly commendable, inasmuch as it shows that they fully appreciate This case has proved very the services of their friends. useful in creating union among the different classes of natives throughout the country. Who could ever dream that Muhammadans, Panjabis, Marathas, and Madrasis would ever sympathise with Bengalis? One of the most evil results of this unfortunate affair has been that it has widened the breach between the rulers and the subject race. It is very fortunate that the excitement is confined to educated men. ignorant classes joined the movement, the dreadful scenes of 1857 might have been repeated. We hope our countrymen will not, like the opponents of the Ilbert Bill, allow passion to get the better of their reason, and will refrain from committing any foolish act.

by the students of the Queen's College, the London Mission College, Jai Násuremdra Náth.

Tayan's College, the Bengali-tola School, &c., at Benares on the 17th May to express sympathy with Bábú Surendra Náth. A telegraphic message of sympathy was forwarded by the meeting to the Bábú. (The Aftáb-i-Panjáb (Lahore), of the 30th May, refers to a similar meeting held by students at Lahore on the 27th May. One of the students proposed that the Bábú should be informed that they were ready to die for him).

Circulation, 250 copies.

The Mittra Vilás (Lahore), of the 28th May, referring to the refusal of the Viceroy to interfere Rejection by the Viceroy of the petition subon behalf of Bábú Surendra Náth, mitted to him in favour of Bábú Surendra Náth. observes that he has been well advised in this matter and that natives are not dissatisfied with his Narrow-minded Anglo-Indians and Eurasians, decision. blinded by selfishness, are naturally opposed to his just and equitable policy and have showered abuses on him. If he had released the Bábú, this would have given them another opportunity of vilifying him. Moreover, his release would not be so useful as his continuance in the prison. to his case, we can complain to Her Majesty's Government and point to the gross acts of injustice sometimes committed by European officers in this country.

The Akhbár-i-Am (Lahore), in continuation of its previous article on the recent Panjáb University Examinations. ty Examinations, refers to some other irregularities in connection with the Entrance Examination in its issue of the 30th May. The English passage set to the candidates for translation was taken from some law book and necessarily contained technical terms which no candidate could translate unless he had studied law. The questions in mathematics were not suited to the capacity of examinees. On

the mathematics day one of the boys was given the evening paper in the morning by mistake. He himself brought this to the notice of the Registrar, who gave him the right paper, but placed him in a separate room, to prevent him from giving any information to other boys about the evening paper. Had the boy remained silent and had he not brought the matter to the notice of the Registrar at once, the whole University examination would have to be quashed.

The Aftab-i-Panjab (Lahore), of the 28th May, refers Circulation, to some cases in which barns, filled Cultivators' barns burnt with grain, in Peshawar, Shahpur, by their enemies during the harvest season. and Pind-dádan Khan, have recently

been burnt by incendiaries. The editor observes that the enemies of cultivators are accustomed to gratify their grudge by setting fire to their barns during the harvest seasons, and urges that the district officers should adopt some effectual measures to protect cultivators from this incendiarism.

A correspondent of the same paper complains that in Phália, Gujrát, some mahájans (prokilled by Mahájans fessional money-lenders) are killed by cultivators in Phália, Gujrát. cultivators every year. The way in which these murders are usually committed is this:-A cultivator asks his mahájan or creditor to come over to his house and explain his account. The mahajan, suspecting no foul play, readily calls upon him and explains his account. When this has been done, he asks the mahajan to remit the accumulated interest in whole or part. The mahajan of course refuses to do so. On this he is set upon by the cultivator and his friends and killed. Only the other day one Sakhera Mal and his son were killed in this way in Gujri. The lives of two or three more mahajans are said to be in dan-They always keep themselves well guarded. It would seem that the police fear the rascally cultivators or are in league with them. The whole police should be transferred, and even Lieutenant-Colonel Harington, Deputy Commissioner,

500 copies.

Circulation, 700 copies.

who has been in charge of Gujrát for the last 18 years, should be transferred. Moreover, all persons of bad charactor should be required to give security for future good conduct.

The Prayag Samachar (Allahabad), of the 28th May, Hindu system of mediates that as vaidyak, or Hindu system.

tem of medicine, is well suited to the physical constitution of natives, Government should do something to encourage it. Even if a comparatively small sum of money were devoted to its encouragement, the people would largely benefit by it.

child marriage.

Child marriage.

Child marriage.

Child marriage.

Child marriage.

A correspondent of the same paper refers to the evils of child-marriage which is in vogue among the Hindús, and remarks that all intelligent Hindus are alive to those evils, but that they have not the moral courage to depart from the custom. The writer appeals to the Viceroy, who is bent on promoting the welfare of natives, to interfere and put down the pernicious custom by the strong hand of law. The marriageable age of a girl should be fixed at 12 years, and that of a boy at 18. If a man marries his daughter or son below the prescribed age, he should be senteneed to a fine of Rs. 100 and imprisonment for six months. Had the Government not prohibited infanticide and suttee, those cruel customs would have flourished to this day.

Circulation, 800 copies. Corruption and bribery among the men attached to courts of law largely extort bribes from suitors, and calls upon all district officers in these provinces, especially the Magistrate of Ghazipur, to adopt measures to check the evil. The writer intends to point out in future in what ways bribes are extorted by court officials.

Circulation,

The Rahbar-i-Hind (Lahore), of the 31st May, in answer to the article of the Aftáb-i-Panjáb on the prohibition of export of grain

to Europe (vide page 419 of the Selections from Vernacular newspapers for the week ending the 19th May, 1883), defends the export of grain on the principle of freedom of trade, and says that the apprehension that the continuance of export will leave no stocks of grain in the country, and that consequently the people will die of starvation in the event of a failure of crops, is unfounded.

The Desh Upkarak (Lahore), of the 26th May, referring to the escape of 23 convicts from the Escape of convicts from the Andamans. Andamans, three of whom managed to find their way to London and have lately been recaptured at Bombay and sent back to the island, remarks that the question of frequent escape of convicts deserves consideration. The editor is disposed to think that the recognition of distinction of race at the penal settlements is at the bottom of the evil. European prisoners are treated with more lenity This difference in treatment makes the latter than natives. impatient of their fate and induces them to attempt to effect European convicts, who are sentenced to imtheir escape. prisonment for life or for long terms, are generally released after the expiration of a portion of the terms, but remissions of sentences are seldom made in the case of natives. recognition of race distinctions among convicts is another great fault which disfigures the Indian Criminal Procedure Code, and deserves to be removed. Personal laws are quite unjustifiable under a civilized Government.

The Englishman of Caltion Bill, Anglo-Indian journalists have abused natives to their hearts' content and endeavourd to arouse race animosity. Look at the mischievous paragraph that appeared in a late issue of the Englishman. It said:—If Europeans had occasion to hold a public meeting in future, they should hold it in the native quarters, and not at the Town-Hall, in order to show that they could give battle to the enemy in his own camp. As Lord

Circulation, 700 copies.

Ripon had excited deadly enmity between the independent Britons and the foolish natives, the former should show that they were fully prepared to make a trial of strength with the latter. Does not the Indian law, asks the *Upkarak*, provide punishment for this kind of seditious writing? It is surprising that Anglo-Indian contemporaries are allowed to wound the feelings of the whole native community with perfect impunity, while a native editor has been committed to the jail for making some strictures against a public servant! O tempora! O mores!

The Júm-i-Jamshed (Moradabad), of the 27th May, and

Quarantine arrangements at Kamran for Muhammadan pilgrims to Mecca. the Waqáya-i-Alam (Ghazipur), of the 28th May, republish an article from the Jarida-i-Rozgár of Madras, in which the quarantine arrange-

ments made at Kamran for the Muhammadan pilgrims from India and other places to Mecca are described, and it is pointed out that these arrangements cause great inconvenience to the pilgrims. The Badus, who are pressed into service to carry pilgrims from the ships to the shore in their beats, are not paid anything by the Turkish officials, and therefore they extort money from the pilgrims. As soon as the pilgrims are landed, some medicated water kept in dirty vessels is thrown on them by a man with a broom. All classes of pilgrims are then indiscriminately placed in huts, made of wood and mat, which do not afford sufficient protection from the inclemencies of the weather, for five days. During that time they are examined, both morning and evening, every day by Greek doctors. The doctor makes them stand in a line like convicts and sees their faces. Even women are subjected to the same treatment. If any pilgrim happens to be absent at the time of inspection from some necessary cause, he is The drinking water supplied to severely beaten with sticks. the pilgrims is very impure. If there is no death from cholera or small-pox among the pilgrims during the five days, they are released. If any casualties occur, they are detained for another five days, and so on. The writer makes some other complaints and asks the Government of India to interfere and see that better arrangements are made in future.

The Anjuman-i-Panjáb (Lahore), of the 26th May, urges
that the Government of India should
provision for the religious wants of Indian emiprovide for the religious wants of the
grants.

Indian emigrants. They are quite
helpless, and cannot afford to pay Maulvis and pandits from
their own pockets.

LEGISLATION.

The Rahbar-i-Hind (Lahore), after publishing a vernacular translation in its preceding issues of Jarisdiction Bill. the speeches delivered in the Legislature on the 9th March on the Jurisdiction Bill, observes, in its issue of the 28th May, that it will be perceived that the majority of the speeches are in favour of the measure. advocates of the measure have clearly shown (1) that the question is not a new one, but had also formerly engaged the attention of Government; (2) that the proposed amendment to the Criminal Procedure Code is indispensable, as natives have risen to the higher ranks of the Civil Service; (3) that the measure would no doubt deprive Europeans of a privilege they have long enjoyed, but that it would practically do no harm to them. Natives need not now agitate at all for the change in question. Apparently Government is fully alive to the necessity for it and will undoubtedly pass it. The present measure is very limited in its scope. What is really wanted is perfect equality between Europeans and natives. Both classes should be subject to the same law. gistrate should have the power to try Europeans like natives. The recognition of a race distinction is opposed to justice and is also objectionable on political grounds. (The Miratu-l-Hind (Lucknow), for April, also supports the Jurisdiction Bill and condemns the agitation raised by Europeans against it).

Circulation 450 copies.

Circulation, 500 copies.

that it appears from the States and one Englishwoman at Calcutta lately waived their birthright and agreed to have their cases tried by Nawáb Abdu-Latif Khán and Saiyid Amir Husain. The opponents of the Jurisdiction Bill should see that there are Europeans who have full confidence in the justice and ability of native magistrates and prefer them to European magistrates.

The Oudh Akhbar (Lucknow), of the 30th May, states

Circulation, 610 copies.

that Mr. Quinton lately introduced The North-Western Pro-North-Western Provinces and the vinces and Oudh Local Self-government Bill. Oudh Local Self-government Bill into the Viceroy's Legislative Council with an able speech. has had experience of both the provinces and is a well-wisher of this country. The sentiments expressed by him in his speech reflect great credit on him. We are quite at one with him in thinking that the same arrangements cannot be made at each place throughout the United Provinces owing to the great difference in the thoughts, habits and ability of the people in different places. In those places where education has made some progress the elective system will' be introduced. Three-fourths of the members will be elected by the people and one-fourth appointed by the Local Government direct. In backward places the privilege of election will not be granted to the people. Mr. Quinton is of opinion that each local board should elect its president and the office should be tenable for one year. We hope that the recommendations of the Provincial Committee, which was established under the presidency of Mr. O. P. Carmichael, will receive due consideration.

Circulation, 250 copies.

The Miratu-l-Hind (Lucknow) for April, referring to the Bengal Tenancy Bill, remarks that it is obvious from Lord Ripon's speech that the greatly sympathises with cultivators. But

the Government should show equal consideration to all classes of its subjects, and, in its anxiety to do good to one class, should not injure another. Moreover, in making a law for landholders and tenants, the Government should always so frame it that it may tend to create good feeling between the two classes and not to set them by the ear,

NATIVE STATES.

The Hindustani (Lucknow), of the 31st May, expresses satisfaction at the appointment of Mir Balrámpur. Muhammad Husain as Diwán in Balrampur. He is an old and experienced officer of that State, and is well qualified for the post. The editor states that Bal-

rámpur is a large emporium of grain trade, and urges upon the Mahárání and the new Diwán the importance of constructing a metalled road between Balrámpur and Gonda, especially as the Bahraich State Railway is now under construction.

LOCAL AND MISCELLANEOUS.

A correspondent of the Rabhar-i-Hind (Lahore), of the Circulation. 31st May, gives an account of the Fâte given by Sardar Muhammad Haiyat Khan fête given by Sardár Muhammad Haihonour of Queen's Birthday. yát Khán, C.S.I., Judicial Assistant

Commissioner, Gurdáspur, to his European and native friends in honour of Queen's Birth-day. Dinner was separately provided for Hindus, Musalmans, and Europeans. Colonel Harcourt, Deputy Commissioner, attended the entertainment and expressed satisfaction at the arrangements. The national anthem in Urdu was sung on the occasion. The writer remarks that such meetings are very useful in promoting friendly feeling between the rulers and the ruled and should be more frequently held.

A correspondent of the Wagaya-i-Alam (Ghazipur), of the 28th May, complains that the Assistant-Surgeon, Bal-Assistant-Surgeon in charge of the

Circulation, 300 copies.

450 copies.

dispensary at Ballia is an old and proud man and does not properly treat patients.

Circulation, 500 copies.

The Aftab-i-Panjab (Lahore), of the 30th May, complains Supply of medicines to that there has been a scarcity of methe dispensary at Kangra dicines in the dispensary at Kangra for some months post. Ganda Singh, who is in charge of the dispensary, is a very able and courteous man, and the people have great confidence in him; but what can he do without medicines?

Circulation, 500 copies.

The Aftab-i-Panjab (Lahore), of the 28th May, complains that the Háfizábád road is not well Háfizabad road in Guiranwalla not well planted planted with trees, and that therefore with trees. the people are exposed to inconvenience from the inclemencies of the weather. The Deputy Commissioner of Guiranwalla should see to this.

The Rahbar-i-Hind (Lahore), of the 31st May, complains,
Road between Amritsar that the road between Amritsar and
and Tarantáran.

Tarantáran is in a very neglected state
and carriages are often upset on it. It has been metalling
since the last six years, but the work has not yet been finished.

LIST OF PAPERS EXAMINED.

6	NAME.	LOGALITI.	Гамераев.	MONTHLY, WEEKLY, OR OTHERWISE.	NAME OF PUBLISHER.	DATE OF PAPER	DATE OF PAPER. DATE OF RECEIPT.	QIRCULATION.
12.35						1888.	1888.	
	Afteb-i-Hind	Jallandhar, Urdé	2	Tri-weekly Divan Bút	Sing	h, ", 25th 28th & 30th.	May "	160 copies. 500 ",
	Agra Akhbar Ahsanu-l-Akhbar Asna-i-Sikandare Ainu-l-Akhbar	Amrohá Morádábád Ditto	Ditto Ditto Ditto Ditto	Weekly Ditto Ditto Ditto	Abu-l-Hasan Ahmad Bakhsh Diláwar Ali	21st 24th 25th 28rd & 81st	., 28th 31st 27th & 2nd Inne res.	196 % 84 % 80 %
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-	Akhber-i-Tamannet,	Lucknow,	Ditto	Weekly	Puran Chand	" 24th & lst	pecuvely.	125 "
22	Akmalu-l-Akhbár Alfgarh Institute Gazette.	Delhi Aligarh	Ditto Urdú-Eng- lish.	Ditto Bi-weekly	Delhi Ditto Ditto Fakhru-l-dín Aligarh Urd ú-Eng- Bi-weekly Guláb Rái lish.	May 22nd 26th & 29th	" 27th " 28th & 31st respectively.	295 copies (including 68 copies taken by
22	Almore Akhber	Lucknow, Urdu		Weekly Ditto	Sade Nand Chandan Léi	" 28th 26th	" 31st	Govt.) 98 copies.

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